

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00

FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /131 W

----- 058380

R 260713Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6037

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 021

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AS

SUBJ: GSP AND COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCE ISSUE

REF: STATE 111968

1. DEPARTMENT OF OVERSEAS TRADE (DOT) OFFICERS CONSULTED ON THIS TOPIC NOT IN POSSESSION OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION REQUESTED PARA. 6 REFTEL. THEY POINT OUT THAT PREFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA ON ONE HAND AND VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES ON THE OTHER ARE A TANGLED MATTER BECAUSE OF COMPLEX HISTORICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES INVOLVED WHICH ARE WITHIN GRASP OF FEW IF ANY IN CANBERRA.

2. ACCORDING TO DOT OFFICERS THERE ARE 15 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AMONG THOSE WITH WHICH AUSTRALIA STILL HAS RESIDUAL PREFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER FORMER COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCES SCHEME (DECLARED PREFERENCE COUNTRIES - DPC'S) AND WITH WHICH AUSTRALIA HAS RECORDED TRADE: BAHAMAS, BARBADOS, BRITISH HONDURAS, SOLOMON ISLANDS, GILBERT AND ELLIS ISLANDS, HONG KONG, GUYANA, JAMAICA, MALAWI, MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA, TONGA, AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. ALTHOUGH OUR CONTACTS DID NOT KNOW DETAILS OF PREFERENCES ACCORDED AUSTRALIA BY THESE ENTITIES THEY WERE AGREED THAT SHARE OF AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS ACCOUNTED FOR WOULD BE "INFINITESIMAL". THERE ARE AN ADDITIONAL 20 DPC'S WITH WHICH NO TRADE IS RECORDED.

3. AS TO TERMINAL DATES DOT OFFICERS INDICATED THIS WAS SOMEWHAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SENSITIVE POLICY ISSUE AT PRESENT, BOUND UP WITH WHOLE MATTER OF PHASE-OUT OF COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCES SCHEME AND GENERAL QUESTION OF LDC PREFERENCES. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT NO TERMINAL DATES ARE FIXED AS YET THOUGH SOME ARE CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION.

4. DOT ENDEAVORING TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION FOR US WHICH WE WILL CABLE OR POUCH AS APPROPRIATE WHEN RECEIVED.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, GENERALIZED PREFERENCES (TARIFFS), COMMONWEALTH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER04187
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750221-0273
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750610/aaaaajbo.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 111968
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GSP AND COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCE ISSUE
TAGS: ETRD, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006